

Please add new claim 5 as follows:

--5. (New) An optical disk cartridge according to Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal length between the opposing pair of arcuate portions of each of said clamping windows, as measured along the radii intersecting the rotational axis of said optical disk and orthogonal to the sliding direction of said shutter, is ± 2 mm of 28 mm.--

-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-4 were pending in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 have been rewritten. The changes to the rewritten claims from the previous versions to the rewritten versions are shown in Appendix A (attached hereto as Tab A), with brackets for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. New claim 5 has been added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

In the outstanding final Office Action, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,175,726 to Imokawa ("Imokawa"). Claims 2-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imokawa. Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imokawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,166,922 to Akiyama et al. ("Akiyama"). The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an optical disk cartridge comprising a casing having a pair of walls for accommodating an optical disk therein. The walls of the casing each comprise a clamping window for clamping the disk at the central portion thereof, and a reading and writing window for reading information from said disk and writing information on to said disk. The reading and writing window extends from the perimeter of the clamping window to a side edge of the casing.

The perimeter of the clamping window comprises a pair of opposing linear portions connected between a pair of opposing arcuate portions. The linear portions each extend orthogonally to the sliding direction of the shutter, and intersect with a line that extends parallel to the sliding direction of the shutter and passes through the rotational axis of the optical disc. The arcuate portions each have a radii that likewise intersects the rotational axis of said optical disc.

In addition, claim 1 requires that the lateral width of the clamping windows, as measured between the pair of opposing linear portions, be shorter than the longitudinal length of the clamping windows, as measured between the pair of opposing arcuate portions. In other words, the distance between the arcuate portions is greater than the distance between the linear portions. As set forth in detail in the specification of the present application, these dimensional parameters provide for an improved clamping of the optical disc while eliminating interference during the clamping operation, and also make it possible to reduce the width of the shutter and the size of the disk cartridge. These features and limitations are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

As set forth in the Response to Arguments section of the outstanding final Office Action (paragraph), the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) appear to be premised on the Examiner's contention that independent claim 1 "does not clearly delineate the boundary between the clamping window and the reading and writing window, and thus the parameter of claim 1 of a 'longitudinal length of the clamping windows as measured along a line intersecting the rotational axis of the optical disk and orthogonal to the sliding direction of the shutter' is given very wide latitude in interpretation." Applicant respectfully disagrees. The claims have nevertheless been amended further define the invention and to eliminate any ambiguity that may have been the basis for the rejections. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the perimeter of the clamping window, and in turn, to more clearly delineate the boundary between the clamping window and the reading and writing window.

Imokawa appears to disclose a disk cartridge casing having a clamping window with a configuration similar to that of the prior art disclosed in the background section of the present application. In particular, and as shown in Fig. 6 of Imokawa, the clamping window clearly has an opening of equal width and length. In other words, the clamping window disclosed in Imokawa has a circular shape with a constant radius as measured from center of the disk. The overall width of the clamping window (as measured horizontally in Fig. 6) is therefore equal to the length of the clamping window (as measured vertically in Fig. 6). Accordingly, Imokawa fails to disclose or suggest the limitations of claim 1 requiring that the perimeter of the clamping window comprise a

Appendix A

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Amended Twice) An optical disk cartridge comprising a casing having a pair of walls for accommodating an optical disk therein;

wherein said walls of the casing each comprise a clamping window for clamping said disk at the central portion thereof, and a reading and writing window for reading information from said disk and writing information on to said disk, said reading and writing window extending from a perimeter of said clamping window to a side edge of said casing;

wherein a shutter capable of opening and closing each of said clamping windows and each of said reading and writing windows is slidably provided on said casing;

wherein the perimeter of said clamping window comprises a pair of opposing linear portions connected between a pair of opposing arcuate portions, said linear portions each extending orthogonally to a sliding direction of the shutter and intersecting with a line that extends parallel to the sliding direction of said shutter and passes through a rotational axis of the optical disc, said arcuate portions each having a radii that intersects the rotational axis of said optical disc; and

wherein a lateral width of each of said clamping windows as measured between the pair of opposing linear portions and along [a] the line intersecting [a] the rotational axis of said optical disk and parallel to [a] the sliding direction of said shutter is formed shorter than a longitudinal length of said clamping windows as measured between the pair of opposing arcuate portions and along [a line] the radii intersecting said rotational axis of said optical disk [and orthogonal to the sliding direction of said shutter].

3. (Amended Twice) An optical disk cartridge according to Claim [2] 1, wherein the [diameter of said arcuate] width between the opposing pair of linear portions of each of said clamping windows, as measured along the line intersecting the rotational axis of said optical disk and parallel to the sliding direction of said shutter, is \pm 2 mm of 27.4 mm.